



FEMA

News Release

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FREE ADVICE ON REBUILDING AFTER THE TORNADOES

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Rebuilding is not easy after a disaster. Survivors may find themselves spending more and more time at their local hardware store, overwhelmed with decisions.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is now offering free consultations with building experts at hardware and home improvement stores in Alabama counties affected by the recent tornadoes.

These mitigation specialists will be on hand at display booths to answer questions and offer home improvement tips and proven techniques to prevent and lessen damage from future disasters. Most of the information is geared for do-it-yourself work and building contractors.

Also, if you're thinking of building a safe room, experts can advise on the best options. Safe rooms built to FEMA specifications have saved thousands of lives.

"FEMA mitigation education is available to all the people of Alabama," said Mickey Acosta, Group Supervisor for Mitigation Community Education and Outreach. "It is important that survivors know we have a lot of information to offer, including publications with blueprints that will help build a safe room."

Mitigation experts will be available Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the following stores starting Wed., May 18. Specialists will be visiting additional stores in the near future. Dates will be announced.

Calhoun County

Lowes

4901 McClellan Blvd.
Anniston, Ala.

Tuscaloosa County

Home Depot

1601 13th Ave. E.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

(MORE)

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

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For more information on Alabama's disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or <http://www.ema.alabama.gov/>.

For the joint Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com/AlabamaEMA. To receive Twitter updates: <http://twitter.com/AlabamaEMA> or [www.twitter.com/femaregion4](http://twitter.com/femaregion4).